

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps.

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 08

March 11, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brig. Gen. Phil Breedlove, 31st Fighter Wing commander, for being awarded the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Special Achievement for Commander Support.

Commander's call

All 31st Fighter Wing Airmen must attend one of two 31st FW commander's calls 9 a.m. or 3 p.m. March 28 in Hangar One.

Office closure

The 31st Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight closes 2:30 p.m. today for an office function.

Help needed

Base committee project officers and members are needed for Asian Pacific American Heritage month (May) and Juneteenth (June 19). For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Mann at Ext. 5837.

Traffic notice

Aviano drivers can expect 40 to 60 trucks a day coming through Aviano's contractor gate (near the base exchange) beginning Monday for construction work around the base.



Airman 1st Class Scherrie Gates

On the job

Airman 1st Class Marianne Hebreo inspects a 9-P life preserver used by F-16 pilots here March 2. As a member of the 31st Maintenance Squadron survival equipment flight, Airman Hebreo is responsible for inspecting and repairing gear used by aircrew.

Prevention

Program teaches Airmen alcohol responsibility

By Au Bree Mariz
Vigileer student staff writer

An Aviano program is teaching Airmen and NCOs alcohol responsibility, and an Aviano High School adolescent substance abuse counselor is helping.

Renee Moore has teamed up with Aviano Life Skills for the Squadron Alcohol Skills Intervention Curriculum program which provides responsible drinking tips for young airmen.

"Substance abuse and use of alcohol is not an individual problem but a community problem. We need to inform the masses," said Ms. Moore.

With the support of Capt. Sally Binanti, the Life Skills chief, and Col. Lee Payne, 31st Medical Group commander, Ms. Moore has been teaching SASIC lessons. Many NCOs have already shown interest in the program and more NCOs are attending the sessions voluntarily.

"The classes fill up very quickly," said Staff Sgt. Emmilee

ALCOHOL, Page 4

No plasticware: Work centers are not authorized to purchase plastic utensils or plates with their government purchase card.



Airman Information

U.S. Air Forces in Europe leaders Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong and Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman talk about attitude.

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Summer camps

Aviano teenagers can experience an opportunity of a lifetime by attending one of two camps dealing with air and space.

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Pets and chips

He wasn't the best house guest, but taking in a lost dog revealed the importance of getting a pet "chipped" and identified.

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U.S. Air Forces in Europe *Airman Information File* Attitude - It's a choice

Attitude — good or bad, we all have one. It's our mental disposition to what's going on around us.

We've all met people with good and bad attitudes. Take the person who greets us with a smile and gives 110 percent effort when performing their duties. Compare this to the person who greets us with a grimace and complains about every little detail of their job. Who do we prefer to be around?

Our outward actions reflect our inner attitude. We easily make the connection between a person's attitude and their behavior.

Phrases like "I can't" or "I won't" or "that's too hard" reflect a negative attitude which can prevent a person from actually achieving the mission.

A person with a "can do, nothing is going to stop me" attitude will always find a way to succeed no matter how many or how large the obstacles in their path.

Not only does our attitude affect our own behavior, but it also affects those around us.

Winston Churchill once said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Attitudes are contagious.

When we're surrounded by individuals with positive or negative attitudes, it's easy to catch their attitude and become infected with good or bad behavior. It's not uncommon to see a whole office of people displaying the same type of attitude.

This is a good thing when it's positive, but nobody wants to work in — or even visit — an office full of bad attitudes. Always strive to be the one with a positive attitude so you can pass it on to those around you.

It's been said that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it. We all have our share of good and bad experiences each day.

We can't change our past. We can't change how other people act. We can't control everything that happens to us today or in the future, but there is one thing we can control — our reaction to our circumstances.

When something bad happens, we can let it bring us down and everyone else we meet during the day, or we can choose to learn from the experience, put it behind us and press ahead with an upbeat attitude.

A good example of this is Army Captain David Rozelle. His right foot was amputated after an anti-tank mine ripped a hole in his HUMVEE in Iraq.

His positive attitude enabled him to overcome setbacks and put him on track to be the first amputee to return to active duty operations in Iraq.

Having a positive or negative attitude is a choice that only you can make — you decide how you react to the events of the day.

While you're the only one in charge of your attitude, you are not the only one affected by it. Attitudes are contagious — is yours worth catching?



Gen. Robert H. Fogelsong, right, is the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander while Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, left, is the USAFE command chief. USAFE is an Air Force major command and the air component of the U.S. European Command. Its headquarters is located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. USAFE accomplishes its mission with its 16 installations, five of which are main operating bases situated across Europe. The command consists of about 73,000 people, including 26,000 active-duty airmen.


General Doc Foglesong


CMSgt Gary Coleman

"Bring Your Courage"

Tax season: Unit tax assistants help Team Aviano calculate, fill out and submit tax information

Team Aviano has several options when it comes to filing their taxes this year: taxes can be done at home, with a unit tax assistants or at the Aviano Tax Center.

The Aviano Tax Center is located in Flightline Bldg. 1399 (the old golf course clubhouse) and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Call Ext. 8285 to make an appointment.

Those who want to do their taxes at home can use www.irs.gov as a source of information. People can call a UTA to schedule an appointment. The UTAs are volunteer Airmen or spouses trained on proper tax procedures. The following people are UTAs:

16th Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Vincent Castrogiovanni, Ext. 4350
Maj. Lea Homstad, Ext. 4425
Elizabeth Meikle, Ext. 8477

31st Aeromedical Squadron

Staff Sgt. Tamika Thomas, Ext. 5562

31st Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

Airman 1st Class Anthony Hawkins, Ext. 8577

Staff Sgt. Naomi Woolford-Drakes, Ext. 4335

31st Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Kirk Anderson, Ext. 5381

Master Sgt. Rigo Chacon, Ext. 5488

Staff Sgt. Christopher Dudas, Ext. 5795

Airman 1st Class Mike Pfister, Ext. 5488

Senior Airman Rigo Vasquez, Ext. 8213

31st Comptroller Squadron

Senior Airman Mary Thomas, Ext. 7233

31st Communications Squadron

Staff Sgt. Timothy Fagan, Ext. 4481

Staff Sgt. Ronda Lash-Johnsen, Ext. 7310

Jeremy Nylander, Ext. 8016

Alvaro Obregon, Ext. 4086

Master Sgt. Joseph Schwartz, Ext. 8675

31st Dental Squadron

Capt. Nate Krivitzky, Ext. 5453

31st Fighter Wing

Master Sgt. Kathy Hoffman, Ext. 4764

Jim Ketchum, Ext. 4840

Staff Sgt. Hope Sims, Ext. 7399

31st Logistics Readiness Sq.

Staff Sgt. Derrick Alston, Ext. 7328

Senior Airman Cash Poland, Ext. 7462

Staff Sgt. Casey Waithe, Ext. 7573

31st Medical Group

Master Sgt. Scott McCulloch, Ext. 5251

31st Medical Operations Sq.

Tech. Sgt. Derrick Bell, Ext. 5144

31st Medical Support Squadron

Capt. Franklin Espinal, Ext. 5289

Tech. Sgt. Darlene Santana, Ext. 5126

31st Maintenance Operations Sq.

Master Sgt. Mitchell Rodgers, Ext. 8620

31st Mission Support Squadron

1st Lt. Erin Hancock, Ext. 8100

31st Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jenny Baldner, Ext. 7544

Staff Sgt. Eric Hill, Ext. 8642

Tech. Sgt. Clint Holm, Ext. 8642

Airman 1st Class David Jang, Ext. 7941

Master Sgt. Terry Johnson, Ext. 7696

Tech Sgt. Paul Kelsey, Ext. 4402

Staff Sgt. Ericka Rollins, Ext. 4664

Tech. Sgt. Melvin Sims, Ext. 7611

Tech. Sgt. Richard Waterbeck, Ext. 8928

31st Operations Group

1st Lt. Matthew Roles, Ext. 8611

31st Operations Support Sq.

Master Sgt. Chris Hinson, Ext. 7099

Nidia Issac, Ext. 7099

31st Security Forces Squadron

Harvey Bullock, Ext. 7155

Airman 1st Class Orlando Chavis, Ext. 7769

31st Services Squadron

1st Josh Hawkins, Ext. 5485

603rd Air Control Squadron

Staff Sgt. Matthew Reese, Ext. 7118

Staff Sgt. Jason Williams, Ext. 7118

704th Munitions Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jason Williams, Ext. 7118

Tech Sgt. Lowell Murphy, Ext. 8753

721st Air Mobility Operations Group

Staff Sgt. Canika Jourdan, Ext. 4411

Staff Sgt. Alfierita Kelley, Ext. 4411 (31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Tax Facts: People can visit <https://avo-intranet/judgeadvocate/taxes.htm> for tax information and a list of unit tax assistants.

Short shorts

2nd Lt. Wendell Morgan wears protective Kevlar shorts being tested by the Air Force. The shorts minimize fragment damage from the waistline to the knees. Lieutenant Morgan is a member of the 1st Security Forces Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va.



Staff Sgt. Dawn Bolen

ALCOHOL, from 1

Fernet, an Aviano Life Skills technician. "It's so in demand that we've actually had NCOs who were students in the class volunteer to come and brief it to others."

Sergeant Fernet said she believes the success of the program comes from the fact that the class is divided up into three parts.

"We have a class that's dedicated just to Airman and it addresses things such as responsible drinking, peer influence, how drinking affects finances, etc. All Airmen going through the First Term Airman's Center receive that training now," she said. "The NCO class is really the meat of the program because the NCOs are the ones who talk to the Airmen every day in the work centers and they deal with the issues we discuss," she said. "Our third class is for the leaders - E-7 and above - and how they can support their NCOs and alcohol responsibility in their work centers."

Ms. Moore and Sergeant Fernet agree the program has been a success. Statistics from the 31st MDG show that prior to entering the SASIC program, the group registered 4.91 alcohol related incidents per 100 people. After the SASIC implementation, the group was again tested and registered only 2.25 ARI's; a 53 percent decline.

"If leadership does not support its troops, then nothing will happen," said Moore. "Education can still continue through awareness and open conversations with troops without judgment."

Call Aviano Life Skills at Ext. 5321 for more information about the SASIC program.

RESCON CORNER

DUIs

Week 0
28 days 0

RESCON Normal

Congratulations to Team Aviano for going another week without a drunk driving incident. We went 31-days without a DUI and earned a down day, set for April 22.

As a reminder, please make plans before heading out. Use your Wingman or Airman Against Drunk Driving. Have a designated driver. There is no excuse to drunk driving.



Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Attention to detail

Staff Sgt. Keith Malloy prepares to measure a standard weight on precision balance equipment during a routine check at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He is a precision measurement equipment laboratory technician assigned to the 374th Maintenance Squadron.

Marriage information: The Aviano Family Support Center assists people with filing paperwork and arranging appointments. Call Ext. 5407.

Air Force requires myPay for civilians

Leave and earning statements now available online for civilian employees; hard copies not available

Civilian employees of the Air Force will be required to use the myPay system to access their leave and earning statements beginning March 31.

The change brings Air Force civilians in line with active duty and reserve-component Airmen who are already required to access their pay data online, officials said. Hard-copy statements will no longer be mailed.

Printing and mailing costs are some reasons for the change, officials said. But the primary goal is to provide people with more services and quicker access in an online format.

There are numerous advantages to using myPay, officials said. Civilian users can view

and print their last 26 pay statements; change allotments, direct deposit or tax withholding information; and buy savings bonds.

Users may also view and print their W-2 tax forms.

One major advantage is availability, officials said.

Information may be viewed or changed from any computer with an Internet connection 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The myPay system can be found at www.dfas.mil/mypay. New users will need to establish a personal identification number.

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/mypay/>. (Air Force News Service)

Sortie Board

Hours Sorties

31st FW

Goal 395.6 253

Ahead or Behind 86.9 79

510th FS

Goal 171 113

Ahead or Behind 104.1 74

555th FS

Goal 224.6 140

Ahead or Behind -17.2 5

Services searching for teens for air, space camp

By Steve VanWert

Air Force Services Agency Public Affairs

Teenagers who share a fascination with flight, both airplanes and spacecraft, can apply for the 2005 Teen Aviation Camp and the 2005 Space Camp, but they need to get their application packages in soon, Air Force Services Agency officials said.

"Applications for acceptance into the Teen Aviation Camp must be received by March 11," said Services' Bridget Kieschnick.

"There's a little more time to apply for the space camp," said Karen Rudolph, also from Services. "Applications need to be in by April 15 to be considered."

Both camps are well worth the time it takes to apply, officials said.

The Teen Aviation Camp will be held June 4 to 9 at the Air Force Academy. Attendance, for teens from Air Force families, is open to high school students who will complete their freshman or sophomore year in 2005. But applying is only the start of the competition.

"We ask for verification that (students are) in good standing in their high school," Ms. Kieschnick said. "We look at their role in student leadership. We look at their participation in extracurricular activities and activities outside the school setting, such as youth club, Boys and Girls Club or community service. We also consider any honors the applicant has received, such as National Honor Society, Congressional Award, Eagle Scout and others."

Last year, 18 girls and 18 boys attended the aviation camp. The group was selected from a pool of 168 applicants. It featured a mix of activities intended to provide learning and social experiences.

"The (aviation) camp gives an insight into what life at the Air Force Academy is like," Ms. Kieschnick said.

During the five-day camp, attendees stayed in dormitories and

ate in the dining hall. They were on the go from morning to night. The group participated in mountaineering and orienteering courses, fitness testing and tours of the academy. Aviation-related activities included lectures on the principles of flight, building gliders, training in flight simulators and orientation flights in academy aero-club planes. The camp ended with a banquet and graduation ceremony.

Thirty-two young people received scholarships to the 2004 U.S. Space Academy, conducted at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. They were from Air Force bases worldwide and were selected from 155 applicants.

The 5-day space academy is for youth ages 12-14. Criteria for selection includes a minimum grade point average, extracurricular activities both in and out of school, community service projects and special recognition awards.

Campers go through astronaut training on the multi-axis trainer, ride in the gravity chair, and use a jet backpack simulator. They also go through all the required training to live aboard a space shuttle, sample space food and learn how to sleep in space. There is even time built into their busy schedule for water activities and rocket construction.

All space academy trainees put their skills and teamwork to the test in 2-hour space shuttle missions. The group is divided into three crews: mission control, space shuttle and space station.

Applications for both camps are available at the Aviano Youth Center in Area One. (Air Force News Service)



Teenagers can learn about air and space exploration at summer camp.

March 15, 1970: The overseas portion of the worldwide automatic voice network is completed, making it possible to call any military installation.

New to the Blue

Congratulations to the following Aviano families for their latest addition!

Faith Marie Baker was born Dec. 18 to Amy and Senior Airman Mitchell Baker Jr., 31st Maintenance Squadron.

Cameron Lee Kokot was born Feb. 5 to Shannon and Tech. Sgt. Keith Kokot, 31st Security Forces Squadron, and siblings Cyle, 12, Kevin, 11, and Katelynn, 10.

Ayden Dean Stutzman was born Jan. 26 to Debby and Staff Sgt. Casey Stutzman, 31st MXS.

Charlotte Ann Grocki was born Feb. 8 to Lori and 2nd Lt. Brian Grocki, 31st Communications Squadron, and siblings Thomas, 9, and Savannah, 8.

Sophia Dinneen Rohde was born Jan. 12 to Cheryl and Staff Sgt. Joseph Rohde, 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Luca Strandhagen Flores was born Feb. 18 to Jorgi and Maj. Frank Flores, Detachment 3, 721st Air Mobility Operations Group.

Stella Elise Waller was born Feb. 22 to Elizabeth and Tech. Sgt. Niklaas Waller, 31st Fighter Wing historian, and sisters Mariel, 4, and Cydney, 2.

Kyler NAS Wickerham was born Feb. 26 to Lorna and Staff Sgt. Andrew Wickerham, 31st MXS.

Worth Mentioning

"Agility doesn't mean the handling of our aircraft. It means the ability to respond to contingencies in unknown and unforeseen ways. To get anywhere we need to go, to get there quickly and to be able to persist is a growing reality of our United States Air Force."

- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, speaking at the Air Force Association's 2005 Air Warfare Symposium

Breastfeeding

There is a La Leche League of Aviano meeting 10 a.m. Monday in Area One Bldg. 168, the Chapel Education Center. New, expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend. Call 0434-755-606 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com for more information about the group.

Asian Pacific heritage

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Month base committee meets noon Monday at the La Bella Vista Club. All are invited to attend. Call Master Sgt. Evangeline Villanueva at Ext. 5416 or Senior Airman Jason David at Ext. 4286 for more information.

Palace Front/Chase

A joint Palace Front/Palace Chase briefing takes place 2 p.m. Monday in the 31st Mission Support Group conference room in Flightline Bldg. 1403. The Palace Front briefing is mandatory for all reenlistment-eligible Airmen who are electing to separate from the Air Force. For more information, call Ext. 4919.

School board

The next open Aviano School Board meeting is 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Aviano Community Center. Three positions on the board must be filled. Those who want to be on the ballot must submit their names by April 1 to timothy.pratt@aviano.af.mil.

Awards banquet

The 31st Maintenance Group conducts its annual awards banquet 6 p.m. March 26 in Hangar One. The dress is battle dress uniform and smart casual for civilians. Call Senior Master Sgt. David Torelli at Ext. 8021 for tickets.

Office closure

The 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron individual equipment flight closes Tuesday through Friday for its semiannual inventory. Only customers for backorder pick-up and emergency issue requests will be serviced. Call Master Sgt. Raul Wallace at



Airman 1st Class Scherrie Gates

On target teacher

Staff Sgt. Chris Tschirhart speaks with a student about his aim at the Aviano Shooting Range Monday during a weapons training class. Sergeant Tschirhart is a weapons instructor with the 31st Security Forces Squadron. He's responsible for making sure his students leave the classroom and range with knowledge of the M-16 and M-9 guns, and how to use and maintain them.

Ext. 5708 for more information.

New terminal hours

As of Tuesday, the Aviano Passenger Terminal's hours changed to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to noon weekends. Early check-in for the Patriot Express will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the day prior to the mission. Call Ext. 7680 for more information.

Safety announcement

A small, improvised device exploded in Treviso Jan. 26 when a child kicked a toy from a hollow chocolate egg candy. No one was hurt, but it is likely the work of the Italian Unabomber. While he does not appear to be targeting Americans, the 31st Fighter Wing Intelligence Antiterrorism force protection unit recommends people refrain from picking up or touching even innocent-looking objects in public places. Be cautious when purchasing Italian candy designed for children. Report any suspicious packages or

behavior to the Aviano Law Enforcement Desk at Ext. 7200.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Aviano Alcoholics Anonymous meets 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Area One Bldg. 168 behind the child development center. For more information about AA, or alcohol abuse, call Ext. 5321.

Deployment briefing

Those deploying soon can attend a pre-deployment briefing 9 a.m. Wednesdays except for holidays, down days and base exercises at the Aviano Family Support Center. Call Ext. 5407 to sign up.

Oil change

Spouses of service-members deployed more than 30 days can receive a free oil change for the primary vehicle. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Safe Highway

Aviano drivers can use the Safe Highway program to report fellow Americans who

drive in an unsafe manner by visiting the Aviano Intranet Safe Highway link. The program was created to assist in the reduction of both minor and major traffic accidents here. Reports must be as specific as possible, to include color, make and model of a vehicle, driver and passenger descriptions, date, location and time of the incident.

Scholarships

The Aviano Community Enlisted Spouses Club offers two \$300 scholarships per term to spouses, dependents and Department of Defense civilians. Applications can be picked up and turned in to the Aviano Education Office. The deadline is March 18.

TDY scheduling

Airmen can schedule official travel as soon as they have valid TDY dates. People do not need orders to call the Aviano Traffic Management Office to begin the scheduling process. For more information, call TMO at Ext. 5646.

Easter services

Catholic Services

Monday - Penance Service
- 5:30 p.m.

March 20 - Palm Sunday

March 24 - Holy Thursday
Mass - 5:30 p.m.

March 25 - Good Friday
Service - 3 p.m.

March 26th - Easter Vigil
Mass - 7 p.m.

March 27 - Easter Sunday
Mass

April 10 - Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Higgins (Budoia)

April 24 - First Communion (Budoia)

Protestant Services

March 24 - Thursday
Tenebrae Service - a time for reflection and preparation - 7 p.m.

March 25 - Good Friday Service - noon

March 27 - Sunrise Service with Aviano Baptist Church at Madonna Del Monte (the Chrome Dome)

March 27 - All other normal services

Jewish Services

March 25 - Purim Service and Party - 7:30 p.m., Jewish Carnivale. Come in costume.

80s theme party

The Aviano Community Enlisted Spouses Club hosts an 80s theme party/meeting 6 p.m. Monday in Area D. There will be games, food and prizes.

Lost and found

The 31st Security Forces Squadron Investigations Section is the base point of contact for lost and found property. Found property can be turned in to the Law Enforcement desk in Bldg. 1019 on the Flightline. Inquiries about lost property should be directed to the agency where the property was lost before calling Ext. 5401 or 0434-66-5401.

Couples communication

Couples can sign up for an Aviano Family Advocacy couples communication class which takes place 6:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning March 29 to April 19. Call Ext. 5568 to sign up.

Survivor benefit plan

Enrolling in the Survivor Benefit Plan prior to retiring will ensure families have guaranteed income after a servicemember's death. Additional details are available by calling Aviano's SBP counselor, Denise Larmer, at Ext. 4699.

Wingman Wednesdays

Wingmen with their cards can receive the following benefits Wednesdays around the base:

- Bowling for the price of one and free shoes at the Aviano Bowling Center
- Free golf cart at the Aviano Golf Course
- 25 cent wings at the La Bella Vista Club
- Wingmen workout 4 to 5 p.m. at the Dragon Fitness Center
- Two-for-one price on ski and snowboard equipment at Outdoor Recreation
- Five percent off any day tour signed for on Wednesdays

Class registration

Term 4 registration for the University of Maryland University College starts March 14 for active duty and March 16 for civilians. Term 4 Distance Education registration is currently ongoing. Call Ext. 5365 or visit www.ed.umuc.edu for more information.

Birth certificates

The Sacile City Hall has distributed the complimentary Italian nonofficial, memento birth certificates for all births up to January 2005. Due to the size of the documents, they cannot be mailed. Families can pick them up at the Sacile hospital on the second floor. The ward is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Airman's Attic

The Aviano Airman's Attic will open to all U.S. uniformed ID cardholders and their dependents from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, marking the beginning of this new quarterly event. This change

does not affect the current operations of the Airman's Attic. The Airman's Attic remains open to E-5 and below and their dependents on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Those interested in volunteering at the attic may sign up on the Aviano Top Three web page at https://avointranet/topthree/programs/Airmans_Attic.html.

Bible studies

Several weekly bible studies are offered at the Aviano Chapel.

Gospel Service's Children's Choir and Bible Studies meet 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

Traditional Service's Fellowship Dinner and Bible Studies takes place Wednesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Protestant Men of the Chapel meet 11:30 to 12:30 a.m. Tuesdays at The Refuge.

Protestant Women of the Chapel meet 9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays in Area One Bldg. 168.

Catholic Women of the Chapel meet 9:30 to 11 a.m. the first Tuesday each month at the chapel.

Marriage Information

The Aviano Family Support Center assists people with filing their marriage paperwork and arranging downtown appointments. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Women's history month

• Women from Team Aviano will read a story of women's accomplishments 9 a.m. Thursdays at the Aviano Elementary School, and 9 a.m. March 24.

• A fun run takes place 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Aviano Dragon Fitness Center.

• A women's history panel meets 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the La Bella Vista.

• A luncheon will be held 11:30 a.m. March 30 at the La Bella Vista. Call Master Sgt. Vatemala Ivy at Ext. 8064 for more information.

Post office news

• Members of Team Aviano should notify the Aviano

Post Office should there be a change in family status. If a person gets married, divorced or have a family member receiving mail under a different last name, he or she needs to fill out an Air Force Form 624. If the post office receives an improperly-addressed item and can not locate the person, the item will be returned to the sender as "Addressee Unknown."

• The U.S. Postal Service recommends people use Courier New 12-point font for addressing letters. Courier New 12-point - in all capital letters - is the font automated mail processing equipment reads best. Do not use cursive, decorative or script-like fonts, and do not include any punctuation characters in the address. The only exception is the hyphen in the ZIP + 4 code. Mail that is rejected by the automatic mail processing equipment is processed more slowly by hand.

Vigileer information

People can send information for publication to vigileer@aviano.af.mil no later than close of business Thursdays the week prior to desired date of publication.

Aviano Thrift Shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop has a new computerized consignment program that speeds up the submission process for customers. People can consign an unlimited amount of items now. Also, base organizations can open consignment accounts for fundraising purposes, and people can donate to that account through the consignment program. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Donations and volunteers are always welcome. Call Ext. 5428 for more information.

Officer assignments

The Air Force Personnel Center releases the Vulnerable to Move list March 24 for officers projected to move October 2005 to January 2006.



Base Multimedia Center

Airman 1st Class Melissa Ferguson's Apache name is Wolf Who Walks Alone, given for her spirit guide during a naming ceremony.

Warrior spirit

One Aviano Airman shares her heritage and bridges cultures

By 1st Lt. Nicole Dubnicay

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Vigilant staff writer

“Everybody has a spirit guide. I sort of pictured mine before it was given,” said Wolf Who Walks Alone. “I couldn’t really make it out but I knew it looked like a dog or a fox.”

Airman 1st Class Marissa C. Ferguson, 31st Maintenance Squadron, recently explained her naming ceremony that was performed at Fort Apache, Ariz.

She is a member of Team Aviano whose background is that of full Apache Indian. Her culture holds a naming ceremony for adolescents coming into adulthood.

Airman Ferguson had to endure a grueling four day ceremony of being painted, dancing and chanting from morning through the night in order to prove her commitment to her heritage.

During that ceremony, she was given the name Wolf Who Walks Alone because her spirit guide is the wolf and she had the characteristic to be somewhat off to herself.

She is a descendant of the Chiricahua, like Geronimo and Cochise, who migrated from the four corners area. Her maiden name is Duarte because her grandmother picked that as the family last name, and has since married and gained the last name Ferguson.

Her family moved off the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to San Jose, Calif., where Airman Ferguson grew up. Though she didn’t grow up near a reservation, she has learned all of her culture from her family and can speak fluent Apache.

“The Apache were the last people to be put on the reservation,” she said. Her family owned and ran a walnut orchard, where they performed yearly good harvest ceremonies. Her twin brother has since returned to the reservation.

“There are no more medicine men and women so a lot of the ceremonies are not performed,” she said. “They are born every other generation, and the bloodline has finally run out.”

Some of her family doesn’t approve of Airman Ferguson being in the military, but her immediate family is very supportive. “It was a whim to come in,” she said. “But I love it.”

That whim has proven to be a good idea. “Her Native American background makes her a great representative for the United States,” said Master Sergeant Shannon Adams, 31st MXS element chief. “She’s one of the best Airmen I’ve ever met.”

Airman Ferguson recently volunteered to share her culture with local Italian schoolchildren. She went to an Italian grade-school and displayed how to make baskets and how to speak Apache. She also colored pictures with them and told stories.

She has been stationed at Aviano for two years, where she met her husband Airman 1st Class Davy W. Ferguson. They are now expecting a child. It will be the first child of mixed race in her family.

“I could hear my grandmother praying in the background,” Airman Ferguson said about telling her family the news. “They are like any other family, and they just want me to be happy,” she said.

Fly Bys

Vacation location

Aviano travelers can make an appointment with an Information, Tickets and Travel representative to design their next vacation. Call Ext. 5072 for more information.

Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers. Call the 31st Fighter Wing Manpower Office at Ext. 7308 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism force protection measures.

Open-air markets

Local Italian villages hold open-air markets one day each week. The following schedule identifies the market day for area villages: Monday - Maniago, Azzano Decimo, Vittorio Veneto, Lignano; Tuesday - Aviano, Casarsa, Codroipo, San Quirino; Wednesday - Pordenone, Budoia, Cordenons, Oderzo, Latisana; Thursday - Rovereto, Fontanafredda, Fiume Veneto, Sacile, Montereale, Portogruaro; Friday - Cordenons, Porcia, San Vito al Tagliamento, Conegliano; Saturday - Pordenone, Spilimbergo, Caorle, Treviso; Sunday - Udine.

Experience Europe

The Information Travel and Tours office offers group and customized tour packages for one day trips, express travel, overnight and morale tours, sight-seeing and shopping trips. The office may also arrange travel and reservations for squadron and private tours as well as daily and weekly tours. For more information, call Ext. 5072.



2nd Lt. Lea Chambers

Name this vacation location

This building was built around the sixth or seventh century and dedicated to St. John. It was covered with marble around 1059-1128. In 1401 the city had a competition to choose an artist to complete the doors for the north and the east entrance. The doors were completed by the winning artist in 1452. Altogether, these sets of doors became known as the "Gates of Paradise." Models of the doors hang on the building today, while the originals are either on display at a local museum or being restored. Be the sixth person to send in the attraction's name and location (to include the city) to vigileer@aviano.af.mil, and win a prize! Congratulations to Senior Airman Will Lyles of the 31st Maintenance Squadron for correctly identifying last week's "Vacation Location" as the Atomium in Brussels, Belgium.

Trip planners: For a complete itinerary call Information, Tickets and Travel at Ext. 5072 or e-mail ITT@31svs-aviano.com



Courtesy photo

Gardaland, Italy, is the biggest amusement park in Italy.

ITT: Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- March 19 - Gardaland season's grand opening
 - March 22 - Guided Venice
 - March 25 - Rome for Easter with entrance to Easter Mass
 - March 26 - Gardaland Salzburg with Sound of Music Tour
 - March 26 - Guided Verona
 - March 22 - Guided Venice
- People may sign up now with only a

50- percent deposit for a tour. The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled. The escort also provides general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for the trip. The office also recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

When traveling to any city in Europe, the threat of robbery is always present. For this reason, leave any valuables that are not a necessity at home. For more information about ITT tours, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.

On the run

Maintenance troops learn to take training in strides

By 2nd Lt. Lea Ann Chambers
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Sunday four Airmen from the 31st Maintenance Squadron will see how 18 weeks of preparation pay off when they run the annual Rome Marathon.

The group includes veteran marathon runner Bryant Hafler, who will count Rome as his fourteenth marathon, Traveller Hill, braving 26.2 miles for the second time, and Buz Russel and Paul Kelsey, each hoping to complete their first marathon.

"Traveller and I ran Venice [marathon] together in October and he talked me into doing Rome as well," said Hafler.

"But I've never been to Rome before so it's also a good chance to see the city."

The group has a short tour of the Vatican scheduled for the day before the marathon.

During the last days before the marathon, training gets lighter, said Kelsey, who hopes to finish his first marathon in less than four and-a-half hours.

Kelsey said the group started training together 18-weeks ago and being able to count on each other has been a great motivator.

"This isn't the first time I've trained with other people," said Hafler, who is used to training alone for triathlons as well as marathons. "But it's better, more enjoyable, to go out with someone else. It makes you want to get up and do the next run."

"A couple of times I would have stayed in my office," added Kelsey, knowing the other members of his training team got him running on those days.

Hafler admitted the group has gotten some flak from their co-workers during training, "We're always getting ribbed for the spandex tights we wear. It's a joke that never gets old."

Amid the jokes, it has also inspired other people in the office to get interested in their own workouts, he said.

Marathon training tips:

To offset injury risks and still get results, stick with these principles:

- Increase long runs gradually into 26 miles and be certain the runs are building the endurance level needed to complete the marathon.
- If your endurance level isn't increasing, back off and master a shorter distance before going on.
- Take it slow on the long runs, because you'll still receive endurance-building benefits. (Aviano Fitlinxx)

"I made the offer to everyone at work if they can't make it to our squadron PT sessions three times a week, they can come and PT with me."

The squadron leadership has been very supportive of the training, said Kelsey. Often the group gets their training in during lunch breaks.

Longer runs have to be completed on the weekends. Keeping the routes fresh and interesting has been a task for the group, but has allowed them to see some nice places in the surrounding areas, said Hafler.

The group put in their road work on local roads through Caneva, Polcenigo, Sacile for long weekend runs.

"Drivers are courteous here and everyone understands the road is to be shared," said Hafler.

"It's totally possible for anyone at Aviano to run a marathon," said Hafler when asked if he had any advice for someone who might be thinking about running their first marathon. "All they need is a plan and to stick to the plan - be consistent. Then show up on race day and they'll be ready."

Run: The March Madness Half Marathon run is March 19 at 10 a.m. at the fitness center. Call Ext. 7459.



Courtesy photo illustration

Super swim team

The Aviano Sea Dragons swim team struck gold Feb. 19-20 in Munich, Germany. The Aviano Sea Dragons clinched 12 gold medals, 7 additional medals, and fourth place in the European Forces Swim League Championships last month.

Fly Bys

Unity golf tourney

The American-Italian Unity Golf Tournament is 8 a.m., April 5 at the Alpine Golf Course. For more information or to sign up, call Ext. 5211.

Volleyball season

Intramural volleyball starts Monday. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Sports officials needed

The Aviano Sports Officials Association is looking for referees for the upcoming flag football and softball seasons. The association is also looking for softball scorekeepers. For more information, call Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

Winter sports

Snow Rafting, Taxi-Bob and other winter activities are available to Team Aviano. For information on individual and group trips and lessons, call Outdoor Recreation at Ext. 8623.

Batting cages

The 31st Services Squadron plans to re-open the batting cages in mid-March. Team Aviano is invited to make reservations for birthday parties, Aviano Youth Program and squadron teams. Reservations may be made for any time, with advanced notice. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Dodgeball Tournament

The Project Cheer Dodgeball Tournament is March 19 in the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

March Madness sale

Marlyn's March Madness sale is going on at Outdoor Recreation. Receive 15 percent off all ski and snowboard equipment rental during March. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Cosmic Bowling

Cosmic Bowling is every Friday and Saturday at the Aviano Bowling Center. Cost is \$8 per adult and \$6 for children 17 and under with a Youth Activity card.

A weekend with “Bruno”

Pets, vets and chips will never be the same

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Vigileer editor

In terms of being a houseguest, he was horrible. He stank, he was selfish with “his” territory, and he terrorized our cat, Baci.

My daughter, though, thought he was wonderful: another playful toddler with fur.

He was actually a dog I found wandering around the Shoppette in Area Two. My husband thought I was nuts when I brought him to our car stuffed unceremoniously under my coat since it was near freezing outside.

“What are you thinking?” he asked as he watched me attempt to constrain the wiggling, panting mess of brown and gray fur. I peered into the mutt’s weepy brown eyes and said, “I’m thinking someone’s missing this dog.”

The decision to take the dog home with us wasn’t very hard: I had first seen the dog walking down the aisles of the Shoppette and I watched as the store manager lovingly carried it back outside.

“I hate to kick him out in the cold, but he doesn’t belong in here,” the manager said.

By the time I finished shopping and eating dinner with my family, the dog was still wandering around the dark parking lot, barely visible to cars as they drove by. Nobody else was in the parking lot. It was obvious this dog was far from home. I knew I’d feel bad for the rest of the evening if I didn’t do something about it.

So we took the dog home with us.

It didn’t take long for the dog to make himself comfortable. After marking every corner in the house and forcing our cat to take refuge in a closet, he settled down in front of our television and watched as my husband and I debated what to do with him once we realized he didn’t have a collar or any identification.

“Do they have dog pounds in Italy?”

“Not like they do in the states. I think you have to contact the Carabinieri. Do Italians advertise their missing animals?”

“Aren’t animals supposed to have a natural ability to track their way back home?”

“What if an American family abandoned the animal when they returned to the states? You know that happens.”

Of course, we didn’t have answers, and neither



Isn’t this a face you’d miss? That’s what I thought when my family brought in a stray dog. Was it lost? Abandoned? Fortunately, there was a way to find out.

did Bruno – the temporary name we gave our guest. So we asked our neighbor, who happened to be an American and veterinarian.

He was able to tell us that Bruno was an older dog, a pug mix and probably belonged to an Italian since he wasn’t neutered. Our neighbor also said that since Bruno looked to be healthy and well cared for, the chances were good that he was chipped.

As our neighbor explained, the American Veterinary Identification Device chips are exactly that – a small device inserted underneath a pet’s skin which reveals an identification code when scanned. Though made in America, the technology is used in Europe, too. So the base clinic – or any Italian vet clinic – could scan the animal and identify it and its owners within seconds, thanks to its AVID chip.

That Monday, my husband and I took Bruno to the Aviano Vet Clinic, anxious to find out if he was, indeed, chipped. The staff ushered us into an examining room.

“Let’s see who this pup belongs to,” said the Airman as she waved a wand over Bruno’s neck. Within seconds, a long number flashed up on the wand’s digital screen. “Yup, he’s Italian,” she said, and left to punch the code into a computer.

And that was that. With a quick scratch behind the ears, we left Bruno there at the clinic while arrangements were made for him to be returned to his owner, thankful that our furry, stinky houseguest wasn’t abandoned after all. Though we won’t be adding any pups to our family, the experience motivated us to get our cat – who’s known to sneak out of the house when least expected – chipped a few days later.

It’s nice to know should my pet ever wander too far, she’s only a quick scan away from returning home.



Cornerstone
An indispensable and fundamental basis

The **Cornerstone Page** is devoted to those who support: junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It’s to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It’s also a forum to recognize those around us. The **Cornerstone Page** will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info

We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community. To submit:

Commentaries:

Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words.

Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer @aviano.af.mil with the subject line “Kudos.”

Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Kudos: Recognizing those who serve

Congratulations to **Tech. Sgt. Adam Rising**, 31st Fighter Wing safety office, for being named U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s Motorcycle Safety Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Congratulations to **Capt. Sally Binanti**, 31st Medical Group, for being named U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s Outstanding Company Grade Social Worker of the Year.

Congratulations to **Maj. Edward Sholtis**, 16th Air Force, for being named U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s Outstanding Public Affairs Field Grade Officer of the Year.